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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 8728**  
Norio KIMURA et al. : Docket No. 2000-1761A  
Serial No. 09/742,386 : Group Art Unit 1763  
Filed December 22, 2000 : Examiner Sylvia MacArthur

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
PROCESSING SEMICONDUCTOR  
SUBSTRATE

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**STATUS INQUIRY**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please advise the undersigned Attorney of Record as to the present status of the above identified application, and advise when an Official Action may be expected.

Respectfully submitted,

Norio KIMURA et al.

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

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August 9, 2004